

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL  
EXAMINING BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	<b>Case No.: 18-63</b>
	)	
<b>ROBERT THRIFT, DVM</b>	)	<b>FINDINGS OF FACT,</b>
Holder of License No. 1204	)	<b>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</b>
	)	<b>AND ORDER</b>
For the practice of Veterinary	)	
Medicine in the State of Arizona,	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	

On August 15, 2018 and September 19, 2018, the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board conducted an Informal Interview regarding Robert Thrift, DVM ("Respondent"). The proceedings in this matter are governed by A.R.S. § 32-2234 (A). Respondent was advised of his right to legal counsel by letter, appeared, and participated in the Informal Interview with counsel, David Stoll. The Board reviewed all documents submitted regarding this matter, took testimony from Respondent, and proceeded as is permitted by A.R.S. § 32-2234 (A).

Following the Informal Interview and the Board's discussion of the information and documents submitted, the Board determined that Respondent's conduct constituted unprofessional conduct pursuant A.R.S. § 32-2232 (21) medical record keeping. After considering all of the information and testimony, the Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, ("Order").

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1        1. Respondent is the holder of License No. 1204 issued on June 13, 1979, and  
2 is therefore authorized to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in the  
3 State of Arizona.

4        2. On January 22, 2018, "Gary," a 6-year-old male tabby cat was presented  
5 to Respondent on emergency with traumatic injuries, source unknown. After  
6 waiting quite some time, the cat was taken into the treatment area for  
7 evaluation from Respondent. Upon exam, the cat had a weight = 16.7 pounds,  
8 a temperature = 102.7 degrees, a heart rate = 172bpm and a respiration rate =  
9 40rpm. Respondent noted that the cat had a degloving injury to the mandible  
10 and proptosis of the left eye. Radiographs were taken of the thorax and skull  
11 and no life threatening injuries were noted.

12        3. Respondent stated that he flushed the laceration on the mandible with  
13 dilute betadine (not documented in medical record) and gave buprenorphine  
14 0.15mLs for pain. It was also noted that he dispensed artificial tears to be  
15 administered three times a day. According to Complainant, Respondent  
16 dispensed morphine for the cat (not documented in the medical record, the  
17 record does state buprenorphine HCL 1.00mL 0.15mL) along with the eye drops.  
18 Respondent further stated that he gave Complainant the option of taking the  
19 cat home and returning in the morning or going to an emergency facility that  
20 evening. Complainant stated that she asked if she should take the cat to an  
21 emergency facility and was discouraged to do so unless the cat got worse.

22        4. The next day, Complainant was concerned with the cat's breathing and  
23 went to Respondent's premise prior to opening. When they opened, at 7:00am,  
24 the manager advised Complainant that Respondent would not be in until  
25 10:00am and referred her to an emergency facility.

1 5. Upon arrival at 1st Pet Veterinary Centers, Dr. Harrigan evaluated the cat –  
2 the cat was placed on oxygen, an IV catheter was set, and fentanyl was  
3 administered. She met with Complainant to express her concerns with the cat's  
4 wounds --- fractured mandible, exophthalmous of the left eye, infected  
5 degloving mouth wound --- the eye would need to be enucleated at a later  
6 date.

7 6. Dr. Harrigan recommended repeating thoracic radiographs which was  
8 approved. Radiographs revealed rib fractures, but no overt trauma to the lung  
9 parenchyma. Complainant was presented with an estimate for surgical repair  
10 and management. Dr. Harrigan further expressed concern with the cat's ability  
11 to eat due to the oral cavity swelling and offered to place an esophagostomy  
12 tube as well. Due to the cat's condition and financial limitations, Complainant  
13 and her family elected to humanely euthanize the cat.

#### 14 15 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

16 7. The Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over  
17 this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2201, et seq.

18 8. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact above,  
19 constitutes a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2232 (21)** as it relates to **A.A.C. R3-11-502 (L)**  
20 **(8)** failure to document the amount, concentration and frequency of  
21 buprenorphine prescribed on January 22, 2018.

#### 22 23 **ORDER**

24 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law it is  
25 **ORDERED** that Respondent's License, No. 1204 be placed on **PROBATION** for a

1 period of one (1) year, subject to the following terms and conditions that shall  
2 be completed within the Probationary period. These requirements include four  
3 (4) total hours of continuing education (CE) and a civil penalty detailed below:

4       **1. IT IS ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall provide written proof satisfactory  
5 to the Board that he has completed four (4) hours of continuing education  
6 (CE); hours earned in compliance with this order shall not be used for licensure  
7 renewal. Respondent shall satisfy these four (4) hours by attending CE in the  
8 area of medical record keeping. Respondent shall submit written verification of  
9 attendance to the Board for approval.

10       **2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of five  
11 hundred dollars (\$500) on or before the end of the Probation period. Civil  
12 penalty shall be made payable to the Arizona State Veterinary Medical  
13 Examining Board and is to be paid by **cashier's check** or **money order**.

14       **3. All continuing education to be completed for this Order shall be pre-**  
15 **approved by the Board.** Respondent shall submit to the Board a written outline  
16 regarding how he plans to satisfy the requirements in paragraph 1 for its  
17 approval within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order. The outline  
18 shall include CE course details including, name, provider, date(s), hours of CE to  
19 be earned, and a brief course summary.

20       4. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws/rules governing  
21 the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.

22       5. Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Order.

23       6. This Order is conclusive evidence of the matters described and may be  
24 considered by the Board in determining an appropriate sanction in the event a  
25 subsequent violation occurs. In the event Respondent violates any term of this

1 Order, the Board may, after opportunity for Informal Interview or Formal  
2 Hearing, take any other appropriate disciplinary action authorized by law,  
3 including suspension or revocation of Respondent's license.


4  
5 **REHEARING/APPEAL RIGHTS**

6 Respondent has the right to petition for a rehearing or review of this Order.  
7 Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2234 (H) and § 41-1092.09 the petition must be filed with  
8 the Board within thirty-five (35) days from the date of mailing if the Order was  
9 served via certified mail. Pursuant to A.A.C. R3-11-904 (C), the petition must set  
10 forth legally sufficient reasons for granting the rehearing or review. The filing of  
11 a petition for rehearing or review is required to preserve any rights of appeal to  
12 the Superior Court that the party may wish to pursue.

13 This Order shall be effective and in force upon the expiration of the above  
14 time period for filing a motion for rehearing or review with the Board. However,  
15 the timely filing of a motion for rehearing or review shall stay the enforcement  
16 of the Board's Order, unless, pursuant to A.A.C. R3-11-904 (F), the Board has  
17 expressly found good cause to believe that this Order shall be effectively  
18 immediately upon the issuance and has so stated in this Order.

19  
20 Dated this 1<sup>ST</sup> day of October, 2018.

21 Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board  
22 Jim Loughhead  
23 Chairman

24  
25 By:   
Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director

Original of the foregoing filed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018  
with the:

Arizona State Veterinary  
Medical Examining Board  
1740 W. Adams St., Ste. 4600  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

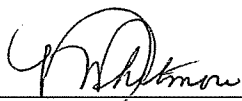
Copy of the foregoing sent by certified, return receipt mail  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018 to:

Robert Thrift, DVM  
*Address on file*  
Respondent

Copy of the foregoing sent by regular mail  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018 to:

David Stoll, Esq.  
Beaugureau, Hancock, Stoll and Schwartz, PC  
302 E. Coronado Rd  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Board Staff